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Peter Kean to Mary Morris, February 3, 1820

Peter Philip James Kean

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Wrsino July 3^d 1820.

Did I not know my dear Madame the great exertions you have cheerfully made for the good of your family, were I not acquainted with the difficulties you have met and unmov'd, the obstacles which you have surmounted, & the sufferings you have undergone with more than a woman's courage. Did I not believe that you have long accustomed yourself to bow with submission to the will of your Almighty Father, I could not. I would not attempt at this moment to offer you my condolence on an event which has turned the joy of a family to mourning & taught us how bitter is the cup of sorrow. how tenfold bitter when thus unexpectedly presented to our lips.

The General's piety & self command have been tried to the utmost & he has met the trial as became a man and a Christian - in his soothing ease, in his pious consolations you my dear Madame must and will find comfort. ~~At~~ If at any moment you repine at the severity of the afflicting stroke let me entreat you to reflect, how much cause you have for gratitude to your Heavenly Father, who has spared you the husband of your youth & the companions of your ripening years to soothe and comfort you at such a moment. That kind & beneficent Parent has also granted you other children, whose hearts are now bleeding for your sorrows - & who look to you with more than common filial affection.

But my dear Madame, you do not grieve as one without hope. A few short years will close this vale of ~~sorrow~~ ^{sorrow}.

forever, & you will witness the dawning of a day of bright rest
& of joy which no earthly being can either imagine
or describe. There united to those who have gone before
you & admitted to the presence of your Redeemer your
soul will find everlasting rest & joy & peace.

Permit me My dear Madame before I close these hasty
lines, to call your attention to the example of that
mother whose sorrows are mentioned in the second book
of Kings, 4th Chapter -

In her old age an only child was granted her, to you
who have so warm and so affectionate a heart, who
have been so devotedly attached to your children I need
not say how she loved him, how her heart clung
to him ~~as~~ she saw him increase in stature & improve
in intelligence. That child was suddenly snatched from
her, he breathed his last on her bosom - She repaired
to the man of God who had announced to her the future
birth of her son - "And it came to pass, when the man of
God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant,
Behold, yonder is that Shunammite. Run now I pray
thee, to meet her; & say unto her, Is it well with thee? Is it
well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?"

and she answered, It is well."
This pious mother bereft of her only child answered, "It is
well" - You have many children left in whom to
joy - children I may safely say in whom a parent's
heart may rejoice -

The Prophet it is true restored her child to life
& she again folded him in her arms. But you
can look forward to a greater joy, a greater than

Elisha has laid down his life for your child.

A greater than the man of God has opened the way of life everlasting for you and yours - May the God of all peace console & comfort you & may his holy spirit conduct you to all peace through Christ Jesus our Lord.

I received the General's letter last night & shall write him by next post. I was in Philadelphia when the afflicting intelligence reached this. I was not able to get home till Saturday when I found Sarah indisposed. She is not able to sit up (altho not ill) or she would have written to you.

My Mother joins me in best love & in sincere condolence to the General yourself & the family. Your grand children each send you a kiss & Julia thanks her Grandpapa for his kisses & sends him two dozen in return.

But more my dear Madam accept my sincere wishes for your health, & that you may be supported by an almighty hand.

Yours truly
Peter Kean

Mrs Morris

Peter Keon
Mr Keon
3. February 1820
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